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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, Creator of all and Savior of those who put their trust in You, in this era of post-9/11, we pray that the children of this generation and their children's children may never experience another day like the one that is commemorated in various ceremonies across the Nation today. Protect and guide this Nation to a new security built upon human integrity and communal solidarity and the love of human freedom and human dignity. Empower the Senate of the United States and governments around the world to establish just laws and seek the common good that will lead to ways of equity and peace. Let our children dream dreams, equip themselves with the best education possible, and become the creative leaders of tomorrow, because they are attuned to Your holy will and give You glory now and forever.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes, and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3001, the Department of Defense Authorization Act.

Today, there are a number of events to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. There will be a bipartisan, bicameral congressional ceremony at 11:45 on the west front steps of the U.S. Capitol and there will be a moment of silence at 12:30 p.m. in the Senate Chamber.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the horror of September 11, 2001, is still very fresh in our minds. This day will always be a sad one for Americans.

It also has become a day of solemn pride as we remember the tremendous heroism and self-sacrifice of so many in New York, at the Pentagon, and on a plane over Shanksville, PA.

Later this morning, the Senate will take time to remember, and it is fitting that we do so. It is fitting that we should pause as a body and as a nation to remember the victims and their families, as well as the heroes, and to remind ourselves of the dangers we still face.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with the Republicans controlling the first half of the time and the majority the second half.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 15 minutes and that I be advised when 13 minutes of that time has expired.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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